

Frederick County Ethics Commission
Minutes for the Public Meeting of Monday, June 11, 2012

Present: Karl W. Bickel, Chair
Paula C. Bell, Commission Member
Hayden B. Duke, Commission Member
Harold Otis, Commission Member
Jesse Goode, Jr., Commission Member
Philip A. Dacey, Commission Member appointee
E. Donald Foster, Alternate Commission Member
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney

The Frederick County Ethics Commission met at 7:00 p.m. on June 11, 2012, at the Office of the County Attorney on the 2nd floor of Winchester Hall, 12 East Church Street, Frederick, Maryland 21701.

Approval of the April 25, 2012 meeting minutes – A draft of the minutes was emailed to Mr. Bickel, Ms. Bell, Mr. Duke and Mr. Foster prior to the meeting. There were no requests for changes.

MOTION: Mr. Foster made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Bickel seconded the motion, which was approved with Mr. Bickel, Ms. Bell, Mr. Duke and Mr. Foster voting in favor of the motion. The new Commission members abstained from voting as they did not attend the April 25 meeting.

Financial disclosure filing review – Annual financial disclosure statements that were filed electronically were distributed on disk to the Commission members for their review and approval. The financial disclosure statements from those who filed on paper were circulated at the meeting for review and approval. The Commission members determined that officials and employees should be encouraged to file their statements electronically and that any paper financial disclosure statements received should be scanned and emailed to the Commissioner members to facilitate their review. The Commission members also requested that the financial disclosure statements be revised to show the filer's name on the first page.

Public Ethics Law discussion – At Mr. Foster's request, a brief description of the Public Ethics Law's requirements was provided by the Senior Assistant County Attorney.

Discussion of Gazette article regarding a County Commissioner – The Senior Assistant County Attorney briefed the Commission members on an article appearing in the Gazette newspaper, how the article related to past Advisory Opinions issued by the Commission and factual information provided in response to questions raised by Commission members. After discussion, the Commission determined that no further action was warranted.

Discussion of Section 1-7.1-5(E)(1) – The Senior Assistant County Attorney informed the Commission that the County Manager’s Office has asked for guidance as to how Section 1-7.1-5(E)(1) of the Ethics Ordinance applies to employees whose County positions are privatized. There was a general discussion as to how the Commission could best provide guidance, including providing general information at the beginning of the process, with more specific decisions deferred until specific situations are presented. The Senior Assistant County Attorney was directed to prepare additional information for the Commission to consider at its next meeting.

Selection of next meeting date – The Commission members agreed to schedule routine monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month. The County Attorney’s Office will advise the Commission in advance of the meeting whether there are any items requiring a meeting and asking all members whether they have items on which to meet. The members agreed that email communications were acceptable. Mr. Otis asked that the agenda for the meeting be distributed to the members in advance of the meeting.

Changes to the Commission’s Standard Operating Procedures – The Commission agreed to defer work on the revisions to the Commission’s Standard Operating Procedures until a future meeting.

Adjournment

MOTION: Mr. Duke moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Bell seconded the motion, which was approved unanimously.

The Ethics Commission adjourned its meeting at 8:00 p.m.

/s/
Linda B. Thall, Senior Assistant County Attorney